

APPLICANT:  
SERIAL NO.:  
DOCKET NO.:  
CUSTOMER NO.:

Avner SHAFRIR, et al.  
09/583,734  
23452-112  
29315

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in this application. Selected claims are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not made to overcome claim rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

*Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

Claim 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Mirabilis LTD, Quick Tour ("Quick Tour") in view of ICQ Inc., ICQ Email Signature ("ICQ Email Signature"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 21 and 22 essentially recite the features of generating two or more types of electronic documents using two or more types of applications, presenting one or more user indicators within the two or more types of electronic documents and presenting the real-time status of the one or more target network users associated with the one or more user indicators via the two or more types of applications, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, network users may determine the status of other network users *wherever* a user indicator is presented within electronic documents created using two or more different system applications, wherein the electronic documents include e-mail, an HTML document or any other electronic document (see the specification at page 5, line 30 to page 6, line 7).

Quick Tour discloses how to download and install the ICQ application, how to register a new ICQ user, and how to configure the ICQ application. Quick Tour further discloses an availability status option that is configured as a drop down window, wherein the drop down window is generated by the ICQ application (see pages 4 and 5 of Quick Tour). There is no teaching or suggestion in Quick Tour for enabling an application other than the ICQ application to generate the drop down status window. As a result, Quick Tour is deficient at least because it fails to teach or suggest generating two or more types of electronic documents using two or more types of applications and presenting one or more user indicators within the two or more types of electronic documents.

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Regarding claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Quick Tour discloses status presenting means for presenting status indicators associated with corresponding user indicators (see page 3 of the December 22, 2003 Office Action). Applicants submit that claim 1 recites that the status presenting means presents status indicators associated with corresponding user indicators to provide the real-time status of the one or more target network users *via the two or more types of applications*. Quick Tour is therefore further deficient because it fails to teach or suggest presenting the status indicator *via the two or more types of applications*.

The Examiner acknowledges that "ICQ, as described and illustrated in Quick Tour, fails to explicitly describe enabling any other application to generate and present the status indicator within the at least one electronic document, wherein the at least one electronic document is generated using any of a plurality of applications," (see page 4 of the December 22, 2003 Office Action). The Examiner relies on ICQ Email Signature to provide this deficiency. Applicants submit that ICQ Email Signature is directed to enabling users to include a signature blocks in an e-mail message, so that both users that have ICQ installed on their computer and users that do not have ICQ installed on their computer may send messages email directly to the target user's computer (see the first paragraph on page 1 of the ICQ Email Signature). Applicants submit that while the email link in the signature block may provide an easy way to communicate with the creator of the signature block, ICQ Email Signature does not overcome the deficiencies of Quick Tour. In particular, Quick Tour and ICQ Email Signature, alone and in combination, do not teach or suggest presenting status indicators associated with corresponding user indicators to provide the real-time status of the one or more target network users *via the two or more types of applications*. At best, ICQ Email Signature provides a link to initiate an email communication but does not provide the status of target network users.

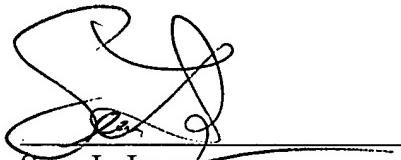
In view of the comments above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, alone and in combination, do not satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, claims independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 21 and 22 are believed to be allowable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-14, and 16-20 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

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In the event that it is determined that any fees are due, except for the Issue Fee, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Dated: March 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram  
Registration No.: 48,283  
(for James G. Gatto, Reg. No. 32,694)  
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND  
POPEO, P.C.  
12010 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 900  
Reston, Virginia 20190  
703-464-8140

Customer No.  
29315